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On the Statistics of the Insane, Blind, Deaf and Dumb, and Lepers, of Norway.—By Professor Holst. Translated from the Danish by A. S. OLIVER MASSEY, Esq.

[Read before the Statistical Society of London, 21st June, 1852.]

IN consequence of a proposal of the clergy, in 1825, to enquire into the condition of the insane in Norway, a royal commission was issued to consider measures for their amelioration. By this body it was deemed necessary to obtain as much information as possible regarding the insane in the whole kingdom, with the view to determine the number and extent of the establishments to be erected for their accommodation. This enumeration of the insane (the first which had been made) was undertaken by the clergy, independent of the general census, and the result of the inquiry was published by Professor Holst, pursuant to royal command, in 1828, under the title of a Report, Opinion and Proposal.

The next enumeration was made in 1835, in conjunction with the general census, and was taken in the towns by the magistrates and chief officers, and in the country by the parish priests, assisted by curates, tenants, schoolmasters, and assistants. This inquiry was induced by a desire on the part of the medical faculty that returns of the insane should be obtained at the same time with those from the financial, commercial, and customs departments of the kingdom.

These returns, which are now for the first time made public, were obtained separately from the rest of the census, the results of which were published in the Statistical Tables for the kingdom of Norway.

Each of these enumerations was taken on the same scheme, and the diseases classed under the four heads of mania, melancholia (monomania), dementia, and idiotia, and are thus characterized :—

Mania, or those suffering from a general disquietude of mind, combined with more or less violence, passion, or periodical delirium.

Melancholia, or those having one fixed idea, or suffering from a partial loss of senses, unable to direct their attention except to one subject, or a particular class of subjects, but in other respects more or less sane.

Dementia, or those suffering from general weakness or excitement of the intellectual faculties, and who, having been originally sane, have lost their senses in some ordinary manner.

Idiotia, or those who suffer from a more or less defective development of the intellect.

Notwithstanding that endeavours were made to render these characteristics so plain that even the incurable cases might be distinguished, that object was not fully attained. The commission had to regret, with regard to the enumeration of 1825, that many of the clergy had evidently confused the different kinds of madness with each other, especially mania, dementia, and idiotia; still the commissioners were enabled, in a number of cases, to rectify this confusion, many of the parish priests having made short notes of the most remarkable symptoms of those afflicted. Although this was calculated to serve as a guide to the design of the enumeration of 1835, it is not improbable that a similar, if not a greater confusion, took place in the latter,

especially when the want of discernment in the parties employed is taken into consideration, for it is hardly to be supposed that they possessed that degree of general intelligence and education which the clergy did, or bestowed the same judgment and attention upon the cases brought before them in the scheme of characteristics.

The number of insane in 1825 and 1835 must not, therefore, be looked upon as *perfectly* correct, as neither the clergy nor the people employed on the census could in all cases judge whether those returned as insane really were so; for although the latter were charged to examine strictly into the cases, it often took more time than those who had to carry out the census in the whole of their respective districts were able to afford. Still, although these enumerations could not, in all respects, be depended upon, those in Norway, which were carried out according to the public instructions, merit our attention.

In the subjoined table, the number of insane in 1835 are given for the towns and rural districts, classed under the several heads of disease and sex, to which has been added the population and the per-centage of insane.

INSANE—1835.																
	Mania.		Melancho- lia.		Demen- tia.		Idiotia.		Total.			Population, 1835.			In- sane, per Cent.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.		
Towns	57	61	35	45	35	26	49	34	176	166	342	61,459	67,543	129,002	·0265	
Rural Districts }	306	299	269	286	226	233	836	779	1,637	1,597	3,234	523,922	541,903	1,065,825	·0303	
Total...	363	360	304	331	261	259	885	813	1,813	1,763	3,576	585,381	609,446	1,194,827	·0300	

It appears by this table that insanity prevails more among the male sex and in the rural districts.

Advantage was taken of the census of 1835 to enumerate the blind and deaf and dumb, and this enumeration may be regarded as more authentic, the definitions of blind and deaf and dumb being much more explicit.

The result of the enumeration of the blind was first published by Professor Holst, whereas a summary of the deaf and dumb was published in an account of the Deaf and Dumb Institution of Tkrondhjem.

The following table shows the number of blind in one eye and totally blind for the towns and rural districts, and the proportion per cent. of each class to the population :—

Blind—1835.								
	Blind in one Eye.			Blind in one Eye, per Cent.	Totally Blind.			Totally Blind, per Cent.
	M.	F.	Total.		M.	F.	Total.	
Towns	107	92	199	·0155	78	81	159	·0123
Rural Districts....	2,328	1,517	3,845	·0361	950	1,000	1,950	·0183
Total.....	2,435	1,609	4,044	·0338	1,028	1,081	2,109	·0176

It would appear by the foregoing table that the number per cent. of blind in one eye was more than twice as great in the rural districts as in the towns, and the totally blind about a third greater. This difference probably arises from the facility of obtaining medical assistance in the towns. The number of males blind in one eye was greater than the number of females, in the towns, by one-sixth, and in the rural districts, by one-half; while, on the contrary, the totally blind were found slightly to preponderate among the females both in the towns and rural districts.

An abstract of the enumeration of the deaf and dumb taken in 1835 is here appended, by which it will be seen that this malady prevails most among the males and in the rural districts.

	Deaf and Dumb—1835.			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Deaf and Dumb, per Cent.
Towns	58	43	101	·0078
Rural Districts	540	450	990	·0093
Total.....	598	493	1,091	·0091

In 1845, another enumeration was taken of the insane, blind, and deaf and dumb, in conjunction with the census, and on this occasion the lepers were enumerated. There are now, therefore, three enumerations of insane, two of blind and deaf and dumb, and one of lepers. Although this last was made by the same persons as took the former enumeration, the scheme was somewhat changed in consequence of the confusion which had taken place on the former occasion. The medical faculty having been consulted, they gave it as their opinion that it would be more simple to class all insanity in one table; but as the various descriptions of insanity require peculiar treatment, it would be desirable to obtain some knowledge of the class of disease, they considered that the former scheme of four classes might, without material inconvenience, be reduced to two, substituting two words peculiar to the Danish language, which would be readily understood by the enumerators, viz., “*rasende*,” or those suffering from general wearing trouble in the intellect, combined with violence, rage, or fury; and “*fjanter*,” or those suffering from a general weakness or absence of developed faculties.

The first include those classed under mania and melancholia in the former scheme, and the latter may be divided into idiotia, or those born insane, and dementia, or those who subsequently become so; and this arrangement would not materially influence the institutions.

The following table gives the number of insane for the towns and rural districts, classed in accordance with the last-mentioned scheme, to which has also been added the population for 1845, and the percentage of insane:—

INSANE—1845.													
	Rasende (Mania and Melancholia).			Fjanter.							Total.		
				At Birth (Idiotia).		Since Birth (Dementia).		Total.					
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Towns	61	53	114	42	34	60	75	102	109	211	163	162	325
Rural Districts } Total...	427	462	889	997	990	462	627	1,459	1,617	3,076	1,886	2,079	3,965
	488	515	1,003	1,089	1,024	522	702	1,561	1,726	3,287	2,049	2,241	4,290

	Population, 1845.			Insane, per Cent.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Towns	77,930	83,945	161,875	·0201
Rural Districts	574,310	592,286	1,166,596	·0339
Total.....	652,240	676,231	1,328,471	·0323

It will be observed, in the foregoing table, that there was a considerable preponderance of insane among females, and that insanity prevailed one-third less in the towns than in the rural districts.

In the enumeration of the blind, in 1845, the medical faculty were of opinion that the plan adopted in 1835, of distinguishing between the "blind of one eye" and those "totally blind," was unnecessary, as they considered that, for medical statistics, those cases only were important in which the patient was either totally blind, had only partial vision, or was unable to perform any work requiring sight; hence the class of "blind in one eye" was omitted; and the blind in this scheme corresponds with the totally blind in the former, and thus the two enumerations may be compared. (Vide page 254.)

The subjoined table gives the number of blind in 1845 in the towns and rural districts, and the proportion of blind per cent. to the population :—

	Blind—1845.			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Blind, per Cent.
Towns.....	101	104	205	·0126
Rural Districts	1,263	1,285	2,548	·0218
Total.....	1,364	1,389	2,753	·0207

It will be seen by this table that blindness slightly preponderated in the female sex, and prevailed with far greater intensity in the rural districts than in the towns.

In the census of 1845, the deaf and dumb were also enumerated. In the abstract appended, it will be observed that this malady preponderated greatly among males and in the rural districts :—

	Deaf and Dumb—1845.			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Deaf and Dumb, per Cent.
Towns	75	48	123	·0076
Rural Districts	531	452	983	·0084
Total.....	606	500	1,106	·0083

The table annexed gives an abstract of the enumeration of lepers in 1845, and exhibits the number in the towns and rural districts, their per-centage to population, and their condition, *i. e.*, whether married or unmarried :—

	Lepers—1845. .				Lepers—1845.			
	M.	F.	Total.	Lepers, perCent.	Condition.	M.	F.	Total.
Towns	101	100	201	·0124	Married	252	151	403
Rural Districts	520	402	922	·0079	Unmarried.....	369	351	720
Total.....	621	502	1,123	·0084	Total.....	621	502	1,123

It would appear by the foregoing table that there were more lepers per cent. in the towns than in the rural districts, chiefly owing to the numbers who come from the country to the hospitals in towns; and that in the rural districts leprosy prevailed one-fourth more among males than among females. As respects the condition of the lepers, it will be seen that the proportion of married to unmarried was as 4 to 7.

The following table exhibits a comparison of the blind for the years 1835 and 1845 :—

	Comparison of Blind.					
	1835.			1845.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Towns	78	81	159	101	104	205
Rural Districts.....	950	1,000	1,950	1,263	1,285	2,548
Total.....	1,028	1,081	2,109	1,364	1,389	2,753

A comparison of the insane for the years 1825, 1835, and 1845, is here appended :—

COMPARISON OF INSANE.									
	1825.								
	Mania and Melancholia.		Dementia.		Idiotia.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
Towns	70	62	31	23	20	23	121	108	229
Rural Districts	398	358	137	150	349	288	884	796	1,680
Total	468	420	168	173	369	311	1,005	904	1,909
	1835.								
	Mania and Melancholia.		Dementia.		Idiotia.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
Towns	92	106	35	26	49	34	176	166	342
Rural Districts	575	585	226	233	836	779	1,637	1,597	3,234
Total	667	691	261	259	885	813	1,813	1,763	3,576
	1845.								
	Mania and Melancholia.		Dementia.		Idiotia.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
Towns	61	53	60	75	42	34	163	162	325
Rural Districts	427	462	462	627	997	990	1,886	2,079	3,965
Total	488	515	522	702	1,039	1,024	2,049	2,241	4,290

It will be observed by the foregoing comparison that in each period the number of insane has increased in greater ratio than the population, although in the latter period there has been a slight decrease of the malady in towns; also, that in the first ten years the increase included all classes of insanity, while in the last ten years it was confined to the classes of dementia and idiotia, mania and melancholia having sensibly *decreased*.

As respects sex, it would appear that while in the two former enumerations insanity preponderated among males, in the last it prevailed in considerable excess among females, and chiefly in the class of dementia.

And the subjoined table shows a comparison of the deaf and dumb for the same periods :—

	Comparison of Deaf and Dumb.					
	1835.			1845.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Towns	58	43	101	75	48	123
Rural Districts.....	540	450	990	531	452	983
Total.....	598	493	1,091	606	500	1,106

The number of gypsies and wanderers, who may be said to have no settled abode, amount to 1,145. The insane, blind, deaf and dumb, and lepers, among these, are not included in any of these tables. Their number added to the census, makes the total population of Norway in 1845 amount to 1,329,616 souls.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Progress of Great Britain during the first half of the Nineteenth Century.

(From the "Economist," with corrections.)

THE nineteenth century having completed half its course, we deem it well to give a sketch of the progress made by Great Britain during the last fifty years, a progress of which we have just reason to be proud.

Population.—In the first place, we give a comparison of the population in 1700, 1801, and 1851.

	1700.	1801.	1851.
England and Wales....	5,000,000	8,892,000	17,922,768
Scotland	1,000,000	1,599,000	2,870,784
Ireland.....	2,000,000	4,500,000	6,515,794
Total.....	8,000,000	14,991,000	27,309,346

From the preceding table, it appears, that whilst, during the whole of the last century, the population did not quite double itself, in the first *half* of this present one it has nearly redoubled, consequently, the increase has been twice as rapid in the last *fifty years* as it was in the last *century*.

Territories.—We are far from looking upon the extension of a nation's territory (except when it has been obtained over uninhabited or barbarous countries) either as a necessary element of power or honour, or as a subject for rejoicing. However that may be, we have added to our possessions since 1800. In Europe, 10 islands, having a total superficies of 1,192 square miles, and a population of about